



**SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF GEORGIA**

ORDER IMPLEMENTING FILING REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The current outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first reported on December 31, 2019 in Wuhan, China. The disease has lead to disruptions to everyday life including the imposition of quarantines around the world, which may limit registrants' access to facilities, personnel, and third party service providers. The Secretary of State ("Secretary") recognizes that, in these circumstances, COVID-19 poses potential challenges to registrants in meeting certain filing requirements under the Georgia Charitable Solicitations Act of 1988 ("Act") and rules promulgated thereunder.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 43-17-1 *et seq.*, the Secretary may require that a registration statement be in whole or in part an electronic filing and may waive or extend the time period for the furnishing of any information required by the Act and may require such additional information as to the previous history, records, or association of the applicant, general partners, limited partners, directors, affiliates, or executive officers or members in the case of a limited liability company as he or she may deem necessary to establish whether or not the applicant should be registered as a charitable organization under this chapter. To ease the burden on registrants, the Secretary finds that the following Order is in the public interest.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-17-1 *et seq.* of the Act:

1. As of the execution of this Order, all applicants and registrants making a filing pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 43-17-3, 43-17-3.1, 43-17-5, and 43-17-6 may make electronic filings using GASEamlessGov platform on the Secretary's website available at <https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/charities>.
2. While this Order is in effect, all applicants and registrants that are unable to make electronic payments under the GASEamlessGov electronic filing system may be

approved after the review of the completed application prior to payment of all required fees, provided that to maintain the approved status, all payments shall be made no later than 5:00 pm on June 30, 2020.

3. While this Order is in effect, the Secretary will accept electronic signatures on all application documents, including initial, renewal, and reinstatement. All applicants and registrants may e-sign documents or submit a separate document authorizing the electronic filing by using “/s/ (NAME)” to indicate the electronic signature.
4. While this Order is in effect, the Secretary will provide relief from any notary requirement on all application documents, including initial, renewal, and reinstatement.
5. While this Order is in effect, the Secretary will not change the status of any registrant to “Expired” or “Lapsed” while in its renewal period.
6. Any applicant or registrant that cannot meet the filing requirements under the above provisions should contact the Secretary at charities@sos.ga.gov to coordinate potential relief specific to the applicant or registrant.

Conditions:

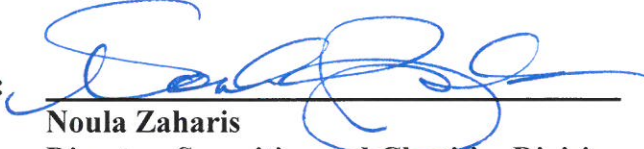
- (a) The applicant or registrant is unable to meet a filing deadline or delivery requirement due to circumstances related to current or potential effects of COVID-19;
- (b) The applicant or registrant relying on this Order with respect to the requirement to file with the Secretary promptly provides the Secretary via email at charities@sos.ga.gov the following information:
 - (1) That it is relying on this Order;
 - (2) A brief description of the reasons why it could not file on a timely basis; and
 - (3) The estimated date by which it expects to file.

(c) The applicant or registrant files as required by O.C.G.A. to O.C.G.A. §§ 43-17-3, 43-17-3.1, 43-17-5, and 43-17-6 of the Act as soon as practicable, but not later than 5:00pm on June 30, 2020.

This Order shall be effective as of this 19th day of April, 2020 or until modified, vacated, or superseded.

**BRAD RAFFENSPERGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF GEORGIA**

BY:



**Noura Zaharis
Director, Securities and Charities Division**